

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEBASTIAN, 1405 LOUISIANA AVE., SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
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Out of the Woodwork

By Pastor Jeff Wood

Dear Friends,

This is the Easter month! The Apostle Paul points out that if we regard Jesus as only a teacher of morals, we should be pitied. (I Cor. 15) The explosive truth of Jesus Christ has to do with him dying and then rising. This is the happening behind Easter and the Christian faith. Come celebrate with us, and don't forget to invite a friend.



I like having our newsletter not only informational, but educational. To that end, let me interject the next few sentences.

It is good to recall that we are Presbyterians who are guided by the Bible, Book of Confessions (statements summarizing things the Bible says), and Book of Order (rules and procedures). Our movement is a branch of Protestantism arising from Switzerland and Scotland. We do our work via a pastor and a group of elders (session). All the Presbyterian churches in an area supervise and help each other (presbytery).

Our Central Florida Presbytery is one of six presbyteries in Florida. Note how ours describes itself -- "we equip, strengthen, and support congregations in their ministries in service to Jesus Christ and unite congregations in discipleship, mission and fellowship in order to work together to accomplish the tasks that no one congregation can accomplish alone."

One of the features of Presbyterians is their appreciation of other denominations. All denominations have different backgrounds and emphases, but all who honor and serve Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are ones we gladly affirm.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

P.S. I don't want you snowbirds to go! If you must, remember we are always here for you no matter the distance.



Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.

"Maundy" comes from the Latin for mandate. The "night before Jesus was betrayed", he not only took bread, but he gave a mandate about it and about serving one another. So, we have Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m. to take communion, remembering, in front of Easter, the Lord's death and his commission to us to be servants.

Joining us in worship — Sunday, April 30th: Imani Milele Children's Choir



Imani Milele is a Ugandan phrase that literally means "everlasting faith".

Imani Milele Children's Choir's purpose is promoting and bringing awareness to the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda through their craft in music and dance. Their performances have earned them recognition as one of the best children's choirs in the nation. The ministry cares for over 3500 children, providing housing, education, skill training, and Jesus Christ centered values.

Healing and Wholeness Service Sunday, April 30, 5 p.m.

Do you need a special time of prayer? Do you want to have someone pray for you? Then this service is for you. Please join us in the sanctuary for this service of worship.





Church Spruce Up: Saturday, April 8th, 8am-10am

Calling on all First Presbyterian folk to come out for a "make our place look great" morning. Come for 30 minutes or come for 2 hours, whatever works for you, and help dust, paint, plant flowers, clean gutters, etc., etc., etc.! We'll have coffee, and it'll be good to fellowship as we work side by side.

National Day of Prayer: May 4, 2017

Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition. The Supreme Court affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer in *Marsh vs. Chambers* (1983).



The *National Day of Prayer* is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

Stamp Out Hunger Day: May 13, 2017

From Roe Abma

Millions of Americans live from one day to the next uncertain where their next meal will come from—a sad statistic that helps to reinforce the importance of our annual national "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the national drive through NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers.).

There will be a collection box in the Gathering Room so our Snow Birds can drop off nonperishable food items before flying off to their summer places. Members and friends are also encouraged to support this effort to help fight hunger in our community. Thank you for your support.



Clerk's Corner

By Jane Capo

The Session met on March 14th. We are continuing to read and share thoughts about Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster. The spiritual discipline we focused on this month was *meditation*. We learned that while Eastern meditation is an attempt to empty the mind, with detachment from the world as its goal, Christian meditation is an attempt to *fill the mind*, to detach from all the confusion around us in order to have a richer attachment to God. Think of the hymn "In the Garden" and those beautiful words: "*And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own.*" This 'tarrying with God' is the essence of meditation and is a gift of God's grace, freely offered to all who ask. Even the asking is an act of God's grace as the Holy Spirit moves within us! Several forms of meditation were described in the book, and we used one of these during our prayer time.

Actions of the Session included approving the Budget as presented by the Stewardship & Finance Team, and approving expenditure from the Building Fund to replace gutters which were damaged during the storm and subsequent roof repairs. The roof repair company is helping to underwrite this cost.

Membership roles are unchanged from last month, with 158 Active Members. We are averaging 5 to 6 visitors each Sunday morning, with an average Sunday morning attendance of 165. Pastor Jeff asked the Session, and we in turn are asking each of you, to be especially aware of visitors, newcomers, or unfamiliar faces on Sunday mornings and during our Wednesday evening Lenten fellowship dinners. Be the hand of Christ extended to them, the welcoming smile which assures them of God's love and ours.

In closing, we prayed for those in our congregation and beyond who have physical needs, and we also prayed for Dr. Merchant and Dr. Storey, local oncologists who provide care to many in our congregation. Our next Stated meeting will be on April 11th, and remember to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, April 9th immediately following worship.



Mission Team

by Mary Keogh

Hope you all have April 30th on your calendars as that is when the *Imani Milele Choir* from Africa will be performing at our service. It will be a special treat, and afterward there will be a luncheon with sandwiches and desserts. Look for a SIGN UP SHEET in the hallway to the Gathering Room. Don't miss this great event.



CAPS OF LOVE - Save those plastic caps that can't be put in our recycle bins. There is a basket in our Narthex for your clean caps. *Caps of Love* recycles them, and the monies collected are used for wheelchairs for those in need. This also makes for less items in our land fill.

*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.
They must be felt with the heart. - Helen Keller*

Stewardship/Finance

ONLINE GIVING: Our church is now offering an easy and convenient way to give your tithes and offerings using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service, which is hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation, is easily accessed through our church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods.



Online Giving offers benefits both for you and for the church:

- *You can save a trip to the ATM on Sunday morning and avoid forgetting your checkbook or having to quickly fill out a check to make your gift.
- *You can set up recurring donations to continue giving faithfully even on weeks you are not able to attend services.
- *The church benefits from a more steady and reliable flow of gifts.
- *Work to process check and cash gifts is reduced when gifts are made online instead.

Visit welovefirst.org/give today and see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

Online giving cards -- if you give through bank auto-draft or another online method, and you want to have something tangible to put in the offering plate, *Representation of Giving* cards are on the back table of the sanctuary.

Music Department

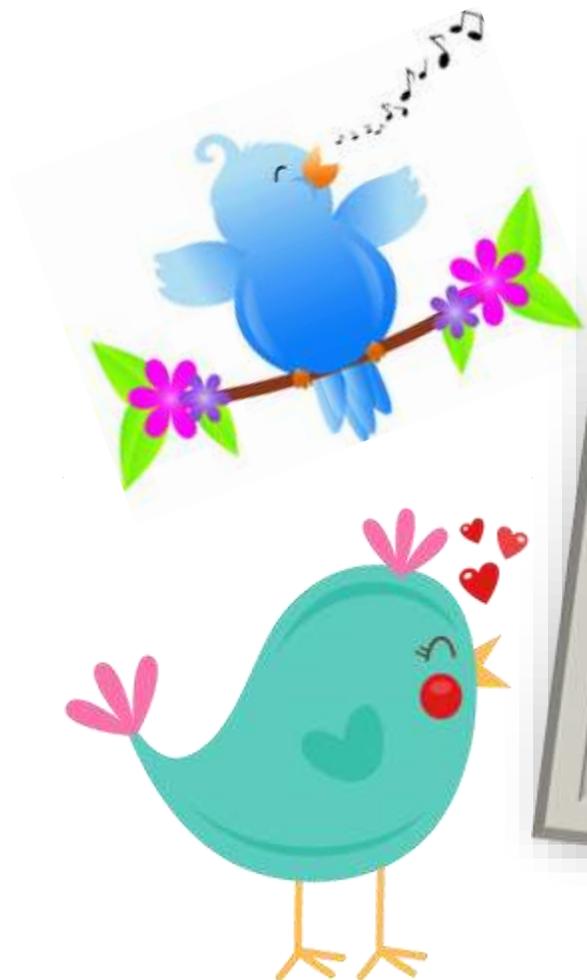
by Charlene Peacock, Director of Music

"GOOD BYE SNOWBIRDS". Thank you for your loyal support during these winter months. Your musical contributions to this church have greatly added to the quality of music we are able to do for the congregation. I always feel sad to see you leave. Have a safe trip home, and I look forward to your return.

The search for an accompanist/organist continues. Please do not hesitate to suggest a name or place that would perhaps be of help. You can call the church office or 321 480 4714.

I would like to thank Susan Coard and Jane Capo for their help. Susan has done correspondence, and Jane has always been available to sing or play an instrument. Hilda Vestal, a snow bird, has played clarinet several times for special events. Michelle Worthington, who lives in Ohio, calls me when she is coming down to visit her parents and offers to sing a solo. These are not choir members but friends of the choir. Your time and talents are appreciated.

Charlene Peacock
Director of Music



Outreach & Evangelism

By Joan Giltinan



REMINDER...

Discover *FIRST* is coming up shortly ...

Wednesday, APRIL 19th, @ 5 – 7 p.m.

'Specially for newer worshipers (but anyone is welcome) ...

Come spend a little 'up close and personal' time with Pastor Jeff and visit with each other.

Begins with a light sandwich, salad, dessert supper.

Please indicate your interest on the *Friendship Pad*, by calling or e-mailing the church office (589-5656) or email office@welovefirst.org, or speaking to Pastor Jeff or Joan Giltinan (581- 0392).

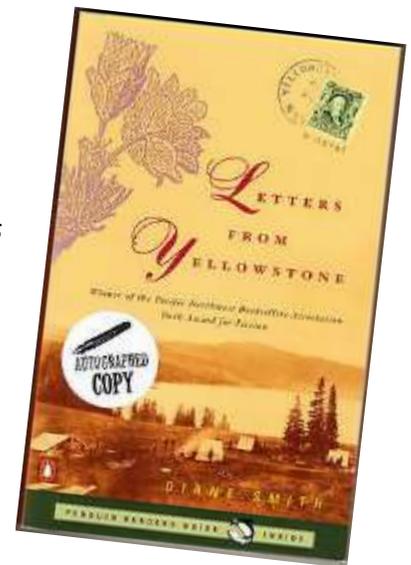
We'll save a spot for **YOU!**

Lit Lovers Book Club

By Mary Keogh

Book of the Month: *Letters from Yellowstone* by Diane Smith

In the spring of 1898, a spirited young woman with a love for botany is invited to join a field study in Yellowstone National Park. The study's leader assumes she is a man, and is less than pleased to discover the truth. Once the scientists overcome the shock of having a woman on their team, they forge ahead on a summer of adventure, forming an enlightening web of relationships. But along their way, the group is splintered by differing views on science, nature, and economics. This novel captures an ever-fascinating era and one woman's attempt to take charge of her life.



Please join us on Monday, April 13th, at 1:00 p.m. for a fun afternoon and lively discussion.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Mary at 772-332-5205.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

From Doris Brown

Hi Everyone,

By the time this Post reaches everyone, our Fashion Show and Luncheon will be a memory. I hope that everyone who attended had a great time. I am so blessed to have such wonderful ladies to work with. I cannot thank the members of the Coordinating Team enough for the way in which they have come together and taken over this project. I feel bad that I was not able to be a part of it the way I wanted, but the cooperation I received was overwhelming. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a successful day.

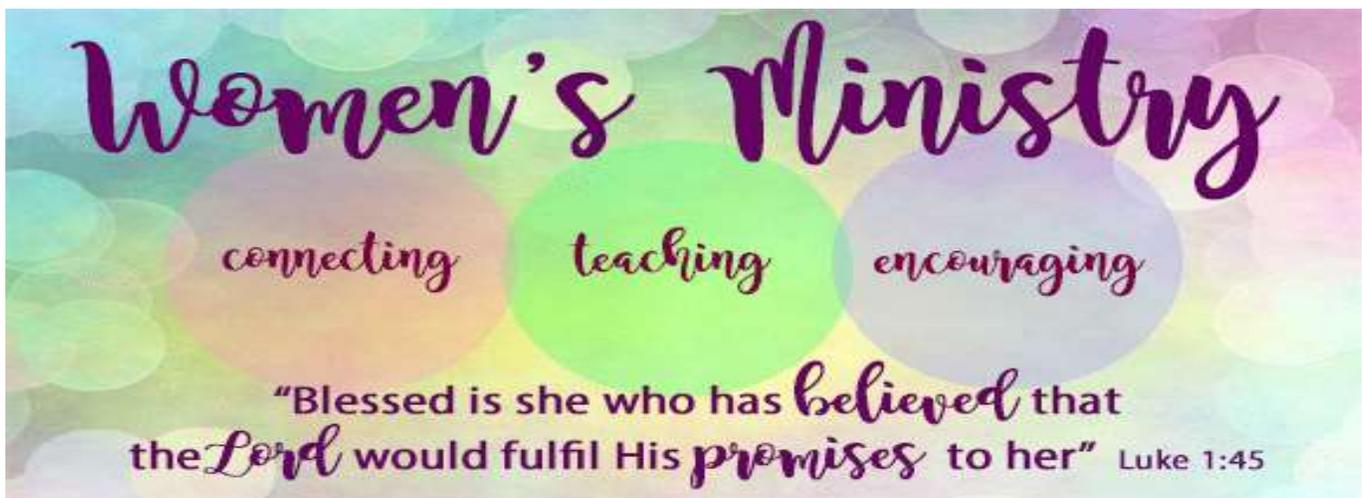
Next on the agenda is our lunch at Sharkeys Café on April 6th. The Coordinating Team will have its regular meeting at 10 am, and then we will all meet at the High School at noon for a lovely luncheon prepared for us by the students. The cost is \$15 per person and we need 20 people to sign up to go. I hope all ladies will join us as this is a special time for us. If anyone needs a ride, please call me (Doris Brown) at 581-9781, and I will see that you have a ride. The High School will provide a cart to transport those who are unable to walk to the café. We look forward to having all ladies participate.

Plans are under way for our PW Gathering on April 27th. This is a pot luck luncheon and program (speaker from HALO), and is for all the ladies of the church. We also welcome any of our gentlemen who wish to come have a good lunch.

Please do not forget Martha Circle which meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30am for lunch and bible study.

We wish all our snowbirds a safe return to their homes and look forward to welcoming you in the fall. I want to personally thank everyone for all your prayers and concerns for Bob and myself. It is very uplifting to know that so many people care about us and are praying for our health and comfort. Words cannot express our gratitude.

Love, Doris



April Birthdays And Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

- 4/2 Sam & Irene Harpley (62)
4/5 Bill & Bess Scholten (20)

Happy Birthday to:

- 4/2 Dot Goare
4/3 Becky Augenstein
4/3 Tony Capo
4/5 Elvi Sanchez
5/9 Phil Gregory
4/9 Carol Wise
4/17 Pat Carroll
4/18 Ron Kelly
4/26 Dale Kuckenbecker
4/28 Dyette Molstre



Is your name missing from our birthday/anniversary list? Please let the church office know so we can update our records and celebrate your special day(s)!

**"Be like the birds we
humans love to hear...
Begin your day with songs
of hope and cheer."**

—William Arthur Ward

Jesus, I know you wept with pain
and anguish over us.
I know your heart was heavy
as you approached the cross.
But I believe on Easter morn
that there was laughter, too.
Create in me the life of laughter
that I may be like you."

—Mark E. Honstein
Lutheran Good Samaritan Society
Loveland, CO

A Call to Prayer

Concerns This Week:

Roe Abma's son, Mark
Pat Adkins
Joyce Anderson's friend, Jackie's infant son, Luca
June (John) Atta
Betty Berry's granddaughter, Emily
Robin (Anderson) Boyd's sister-in-law, Lynn
Doris Brown
Bob Brown's cousin, Ann Marie Glenn
Pat Dwyer's nephew, Brian Cooper
Elliott's friend, Bob Sullivan
Don Helmboldt's son, Bob
Joan Killian
Arnold Kimmel's sister, Martha Kimmel
Kraftchaks' friend, Dan Masessa
Tony/Joann Leonard's friend, Susan Childress
Nafziger's niece, Christina
Dot Restum's cousin, George
Marge Royce
Bess Scholten's sister's son, Tim Menzer
Bill (Bess) Scholten
Bob Shambo
Debbie Sladen, her mother; Ann Powers, sister & brother in law, & friends; Bruce, Tom, and Ruth
Sherry Whitcomb's brother, Bob English

Current Prayer Requests:

Rosemary Abma's son, Hank
Joyce Anderson, her brother-in-law, Bruce Day; friend Arlene's sister, Janet
John Atta's brother & sister-in-law, Gary & Gale
Judy Baysinger's daughter, Melanie
Harriet Beatty
Al Berni
Bernis' friend, Maria Debonis
Betty Berry's sister, Marie
Betty & Jack Boardman
Doug Boyd
Bob Brown's cousins, Suzanne & John Schlichter
Doris Brown's friend, Joann Langevin
Pat Carroll, her sister, Sandy; teenage grandson, Aidan; neighbor, Fred Campbell
Jamie Clark
Sally Clark's friend, Adele

Elsie Colwell
Gladys Cormeia
Roger Decker's grandson, Monroe Williams
Sandy Doughty's daughter, Melissa King
Gloria Fennell
Dot Goare
Billie Gregg
Greggs' daughter, Rachel
Eleanor Hakes' son-in-law, Bruce
Barbara/Wayne Harding
Sam/Irene Harpley
Joan Helmacy's friend, Chuck
Josie/John Jaynes
Jerry Jessup
Killians' granddaughter, Rebecca
Arnold (Joan) Kimmel
Joan & Bill Kraftchak
Juanita Leioatts
Juanita Leioatts' grand-niece, Paisley Linder
Donna Lemon's brother, Bobby, & sister, Alice
Dave/Betty Letrick
Donna Lilga
Stan Linder
Nancy Loichytz's daughter, Suzanne, and friend's daughter, Kristin
Mona and Norm Lopez
Nancy Marine
Anne McBride's husband, William
Sylvia McFadden's sons, Philip & Daniel
Myra Mende's grandson, Kyle
Mary Jo Morrow
Dick Nafziger
Charlene Peacock
Pam Richardson's sister-in-law, Robin
Rev. Dr. Ed Riedesel
Bebe Rowe
Carol (Dick) Roy
Bess Scholten's friend, Brendan Leonard
Priscilla/Sam Spear
June Taylor's granddaughter, Mellanie
Rick (Hilda) Timmerman
Bill & Juanita Welsh's son, David & his family
Juanita Welsh's friend, Ann Sage

Continuing Prayer Requests:

Roe Abma's friend Rina
Thelma Andresen's sister, Sharon
Jack Ayers
Judy Baysinger

Bells' grandson Taylor, & friend, Norman
Roxie Buhr
Gertrude Dinnary
Bertha Golle
Phil & Ellie Gregory & daughter, Andrea
Bob Keith
Bill Kraftchak's brother, James, & friends Bernie & Jinja
Kellys'/Bells' friends, Dave & Donna
Leioatts' neighbor's son, Tom Thompson
Juanita Leioatt's sister, Sue
Terry & Donna Lemon
Donna Lilga's daughter, Myra, & friend, Carol
Norm Lopez's daughter, Liz, & friend, Norma
Don MacLean, Jr.
Dave Pierson
Carol Plummer's son, Flavio Pierri, & friends, Fiona Atwell, Joe Cruz & Joan Boulay
Mary Rawn
Audrey Reed's sister, Maryanne
Mabel Rohr
Bob & Georgette Shambo
Bob Wannop
Don Wilson's son, James
People whose lives and homes continue to be impacted by floods, fires, tornadoes, ice & snow

Grieving:

Doris Brown, on the death of her husband, Bob (3/26/17)
Bonnie Merritt, on the death of her husband, Clayton
The Hislop family, on the death of Ken's niece, Helen, in Scotland

Missionaries:

Dan & Elizabeth Turk
Rodney & Sharyn Babe

**If you have a prayer request,
email it to: office@welovefirst.org
or call the office: 772-586-5656**

Thank you... *to all who kept us in their prayers, sent cards, food and love at the time of our son and nephew's illness and death.*

Betty and Dave Letrick

APRIL 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
ELDER OF WEEK 1: (April 2-8) Ron Kelly	ELDER OF WEEK 2: Dick Sladen	ELDER OF WEEK 3: Jane Capo	ELDER OF WEEK 4: Jean Valentine	ELDER OF WEEK 5: Jane Capo	CHURCH AT PRAYER: Juanita Welsh	1 <i>April Fool's Day</i> 9-3 Thrift Shop
2 8:45 Cafe' 9:00 Bible Study/Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee <i>Pantry: Peanut Btr/Jelly</i>	3 1pm Bridge 5:30pm W.Watchers 7pm Bible Study	4 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 1pm Admin Team 2:30pm Stew/Fin 6pm Step Group	5 9am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30am O/E Team 1:30pm Thrift Shop Mtg. 2:30 Mission Team 5pm Lenten Potluck 6:45 pm Choir	6 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 10am PW Coord. Team & Lunch at Sharkey's (At noon)	7 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 9:30am W.Watchers 1pm Bridge	8 8-10 am Church Clean up 9-3 Thrift Shop
9 PALM SUNDAY 8:45 Cafe' 9:00 Bible Study/Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> ANNUAL MEETING <i>Pantry: Toilet Paper</i>	10 1pm Bridge 1pm Book Club 5:30pm W.Watchers 7pm Bible Study	11 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 3pm Session 6pm Step Group	12 9am Pastor's Bible Study	13 <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 5pm Choir 7pm Worship	14 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 9:30am W.Watchers 1pm Bridge	15 9-3 Thrift Shop
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 Cafe' 9:00 Bible Study/Choir 10:00 Worship <i>Pantry: Canned Fruit</i>	17 OFFICE CLOSED 1pm Bridge 5:30pm W.Watchers 7pm Bible Study	18 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 6pm Step Group	19 9am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30am Martha Circle 4pm Choir 5pm Discover <i>FIRST</i>	20 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop	21 <i>EARTH DAY</i> OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 9:30am W.Watchers 1pm Bridge	22 9-3 Thrift Shop
23 8:45 Cafe' 9:00 Bible Study/Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee <i>Pantry: Mac n' Cheese</i>	24 1pm Bridge 5:30pm W.Watchers 7pm Bible Study	25 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 6pm Step Group	26 9am Pastor's Bible Study 4pm Choir	27 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 12pm Worship Team	28 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 9:30am W.Watchers 1pm Bridge	29 9-3 Thrift Shop
30 IMANI CHOIR 8:45 Cafe' 9:00 Bible Study/Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Luncheon <i>Pantry: Cereal</i>	 <p>Easter Lilies - Orders will be taken for Easter Lilies on Sunday, April 2nd, and Sunday, April 9th. These may be given in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. A member of the Worship Team will be available before and after church on 4/2 and 4/9 to receive your orders.</p> <p>VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.WELOVEFIRST.ORG Facebook.com/welovefirstsebastian</p>					

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PERMIT 221**

Worship - Sunday 10 a.m.

Thrift Shop

Open Tue, Thur. Fri., Sat. 9-3

772-581-8155

To know Christ and to make Christ known.

Remember these dates:

Thursday, April 6th, at noon: PW Luncheon at Sharkey's

Thursday, April 13th, 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Worship

April 9th: Palm Sunday

April 16th: Easter Sunday

April 19th, 5p.m.: Discover FIRST

April 30th: Imani Milele Children's Choir @ worship

April 30th, 5 p.m.: Service for Healing and Wholeness

